

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703

HQ DMA WASHDC

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DEPT. PASS TO DMA FOR BYARS, PPL

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: MAPPING PROJECT FOR ERADICATION
CAMPAIGN

REF: STATE 281070

SUMMARY: USG MAPPING TECHNICIANS AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS OFFICERS MET WITH BOTH ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) SENIOR STAFF AND GOM MAPPING AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES (DETENEL) TO ESTABLISH GROUNDWORK FOR ACTION BY AG FLORES TO RESOLVE THE MAPPING DEFICIENCY IN NARCOTICS PROGRAM AREAS. DETENEL, THE GOM AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAPPING THE REPUBLIC, INDICATED IT IS WILLING TO ADJUST ITS PRIORITIES OF AREA COVERAGE IF IT IS SO ORDERED BY SECRETARIAT OF PROGRAM AND BUDGET (OMB) EQUIVALENT). END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MEETING ON NOVEMBER 30, EMBASSY OFFICERS AND DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY (DMA) OFFICER BYARS INFORMED AG EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA THAT DETENEL HAS RESOURCES AND PROVEN CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT AG ACTIVITIES WITH QUALITY MAPS IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS IF IT FOLLOWS ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT PRODUCTION AND PATTERN OF AREA COVERAGE. BAEZA WAS ALSO INFORMED OF USG WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND/OR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO SUPPORT THE MAPPING PROJECT. AG SENIOR STAFF AND USG REPRESENTATIVES AGREED THAT IDEAL MAP SCALE IS 1:50,000 AND THAT, AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, WE SHOULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF PRODUCING PHOTO-

MOSIACS OF THE ENTIRE WESTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN AREA THROUGH DETENAL OR A LOCALLY-CONTRACTED AERIAL PHOTO MAPPING COMPANY TO BE MONITORED BY DETENAL.

2. BAEZA UNDERSTANDS THAT MAPPING OF CRITICAL NORTH-WESTERN ZONE WAS ASSIGNED TO MEXICAN MILITARY MAPPING DEPARTMENT INSTEAD OF DETENAL AND THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE THE DESIRED MAPS IN QUALITY, QUANTITY, AND TIMELINESS REQUIRED. BAEZA AGREED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH AG FLORES.

3. BAEZA WAS INFORMED OF DETENAL'S APPARENT ENTHUSIASM AND WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THE AG OFFICE IF EXISTING ASSIGNED PRIORITIES ARE MODIFIED AND DETENAL IS GIVEN A MANDATE TO PROCEED. BAEZA INFORMED EMBASSY HE WOULD BRIEF THE AG IN DETAIL AND THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY, AG FLORES WOULD PREFER TO HANDLE THIS POLICY MATTER AT CABINET LEVEL AS THE FIRST STEP.

4. IF AND WHEN POLICY DECISION IS REACHED TO TASK DETENAL TO PROVIDE MAPPING SUPPORT FOR AG ERADICATION/ INTERDICTION ACTIVITIES, LEADTIME FOR PRODUCTION WILL REMAIN A MAJOR PROBLEM AS THE USUAL PROCEDURES RELATED TO CARTOGRAPHY ARE TIME CONSUMING. BAEZA AGREED TO EXPLORE EXPEDITIOUS PREPARATION OF PHOTO-MOSAICS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1:50,000 SCALE AS AN INTERIM MEASURE. IN THIS RESPECT, DMA OFFICER BYARS OFFERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON TDY TO ASSIST WITH QUALITY CONTROL, PREPARATION OF SPECIFICATIONS, ETC, IF REQUIRED BY DETENAL IN MONITORING A LOCALLY-CONTRACTED COMPANY.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT DR. BOURNE, MS. FALCO, AND MR. ARELLANO WILL ADDRESS DETAILS OF MAPPING PROJECT, THEY MAY WISH TO RAISE WITH GOM OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAPPING REQUIREMENTS DURING THEIR VISIT. LUCEY

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